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OCTOBER 28, 1958

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FROM: BERLIN

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 292, OCTOBER 28, 4 PM

SENT BONN 247, DEPARTMENT 292, LONDON MOSCOW PARIS UNNUMBERED

BONN PASS USAREUR 81

REFERENCE: BERLIN'S 246 TO BONN; DEPARTMENT 290; POLAD USAREUR 8C

ULBRICHTS STATEMENTS RE BERLIN ESSENTIALLY REPEAT ARGUMENTS SET FORTH IN DETAILED, LEGALISTIC FORM BY KROEGER LAST JANUARY (OURTELS 760,772 TO BONN, RPTD 824, & 835 TO DEPT). THIS IS FIRST TIME SINCE THEN THAT FULL PRESENTATION THESE CONTENTIONS MADE, THOUGH IN INTERVENING PERIOD PARTS OF KROEGER ARGUMENTS USED. IT IS SIGNIFICANT THAT ULBRICHT NOW SPOKESMAN FOR THIS VIEWPOINT. THERE IS ONE NOVEL STATEMENT IN ULBRICHT'S REMARKS, NAMELY THAT TRAFFIC BETWEEN GDR AND WEST SECTORS BERLIN AND TRAFFIC WITHIN BERLIN NOT INVOLVED IN ANY AGREEMENTS. IN VIEW PERSISTENT REPORTS OF ULBRICHT'S DESIRE SEAL OFF WEST BERLIN FROM SOVZONE AND EAST BERLIN BY STRINGENT CONTROLS WHICH SOVS HAVE HITHERTO RESTRAINED, THERE IS THREAT IMPLIED IN THIS PARTICULAR STATEMENT. WHILE IT MAY NOT FORESHADOW IMMINENT ACTION, IT NEVERTHELESS IS PREPARING "LEGAL" BASIS IN WAY NOT PREVIOUSLY DONE.

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